

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01180 071818Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 HA-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /073 W
-----006759 072325Z /75

R 071730Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9694
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1180

MEXICO AND SAN JOSE ALSO FOR DEA

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, SNAR, SHUM, HO
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED MURDER VICTIM ACCUSES PUBLIC OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 56149

1. ON DECEMBER 2, 1977, MARIO FERRARI GONZALEZ, OWNER OF A USE CAR LOT, AND HIS WIFE WERE KIDNAPPED BY THREE ARMED MEN AND VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE. FERRARI HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. SPECULATION ON MOTIVES HAS RANGED FROM MURDER BY A RIVAL GANG THROUGH SIMPLE ROBBERY TO A FAKED KIDNAPPING TO AVOID DEBTS.

2. WHILE RUMORS ABOUNDED, NO MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION BECAME AVAILABLE UNTIL LAST WEEK WHEN TWO SAN PEDRO SULA MEN, ONE A STUDENT AND THE OTHER HIS COUSIN, APPARENTLY A SMALL-TIME MERCHANT, WERE KIDNAPPED, TORTURED AND LEFT FOR DEAD. THE STUDENT'S BODY WAS FOUND TWO DAYS LATER IN A RIVER. THE SURVIVOR, CARLOS FELIPE MADRID,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 01180 071818Z

HAS PROVIDED SENSTATIONAL GRIST FOR THE PRESS. ACCORDING TO MADRID, HE AND HIS COUSIN WERE PICKED UP BY PERSONS WHOM THEY HAD HEARD WERE IMPLICATED IN THE FERRARI CASE AFTER REPEATING THE RUMOR TO THE WRONG PEOPLE. IN ADDITION TO NAMING LOW-LEVEL POLICE OFFICIALS, HE STATED THAT HE HEARD ONE OF HIS KIDNAPPERS SAY THEY WERE ACTING ON ORDERS OF MAJOR JULIO CESAR RIVERA, NATIONAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT CHIEF. WHILE RIVERA HAS DENIED ACCUSATION, ONE NEWSPAPER HAS

SPECULATED THAT A SECRET MILITARY REPORT IMPLICATES THREE OFFICERS. ANOTHER NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT ARMED FORCES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF POLICAROP PAZ IS CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S REPUTATION AND IS PERSONALLY QUESTIONING POLICE AND ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS.

3. AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CALLS FOR AN INDEPENDENT HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES (WHICH IS INDICATIVE IN ITSELF OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE).

4. AS A SIDE DEVELOPMENT, THE RECENT PRESENCE IN TEGUCIGALPA OF FOUR DEA OFFICIALS WAS PICKED UP BY ONE LOCAL NEWSPAPER WHICH IN A SHORT ARTICLE RAISED QUESTION WHETHER THE VISIT WAS RELATED TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND WHETHER AGENTS VISITED SAN PEDRO SULA. EMBASSY STATEMENT THAT VISIT WAS ROUTINE AND THAT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO TRIP MADE TO SAN PEDRO SULA WAS RUN STRAIGHT, AND QUESTION HAS NOT SURFACED AGAIN.

5. COMMENT: THESE ALLEGATIONS MAY TURN OUT TO BE NO MORE THAN PRESS TEMPEST. NEWS STORIES OFTEN BLOW UP ONE DAY AND EVAPORATE OVERNIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, HONDURAS' PRESS FREEDOM AND THE HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE COMBINED TO PROVIDE A STEADY DRUMFIRE OF ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS IN RECENT MONTHS DESCRIBING CASES OF ALLEGED POLICE BRUTALITY AND CORRUPTION, BUT NONE AS SENSATIONAL AS THIS ONE. THE UNSUCCESSFUL MADRID MURDER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 01180 071818Z

ATTEMPT HAS RENEWED PUBLIC INTEREST ON AN UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE AND BROUGHT ABOUT INCREASED CRITICISM OF HONDURAN POLICE FORCES. SPECULATION OF HIGHER-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT GIVES THE PRESS REASON FOR PURSUING THESE ALLEGATIONS AND COULD HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MELGAR GOVERNMENT, AS SHOWN BY GENERAL PAZ' REPORTED CONCERN OVER STORIES.
BARTCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, DRUG TRAFFIC, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEGUCI01180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0474
Format: TEL
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780395/aaaaddcf.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15de97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 56149
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3411831
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTEMPTED MURDER VICTIM ACCUSES PUBLIC OFFICIALS
TAGS: PINT, SNAR, SHUM, HO, (MADRID, CARLOS FELIPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15de97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014